Linking of Darjeeling and Sikkim with broad gauge line

4180. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to connect Darjeeling and Sikkim by broad gauge rail line;

(b) if so, whether any survey is being conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the above places are likely to be connected by broad gauge line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a survey for a new BG line from Sivok to Gangtok via Giellekhole and Singtam has been taken up. Further consideration of the proposal will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Facilities in AC-3 Coaches of Rajdhani Express

4181. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision was taken to provide Linen Room, Hot case and a Water cooler in all AC-3 coaches of Rajdhani Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that same facilities are not provided in Howrah Rajdhani Express;

(d) if so, the reason therefor;

(e) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided in the said train; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In AC-3 Tier coaches of Rajdhani Express in Linen room and a hot case are provided.

(c) and (d) As the Howrah Rajdhani coaches were of earlier design, some of the AC-3 Tier coaches did not have these facilities.

(e) The Howrah Rajdhani AC-3 Tier coaches are gradually being modified (in Workshop) to provide for this facility. This work is likely to be completed during this year.

(f) Does not arise.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

4182. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that thousands of applicants are on the waiting list for telephone connections under Cannanore Secondary Switching Area in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to clear the back log;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is dearth of equipments/machinery at many of the Telephone Exchanges in Cannanore Secondary Switching Area; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to supply machinery/equipments for Cannanore Switching area?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The waiting list as on 28.2.1997 in Cannanore Secondary Switching Area is 87697.

The number of new telephone connections added during 1996-97 as on 28.2.1997 is 10516 and connections likely to be added during March, 1997 is 3000.

There are 113 exchanges in the Secondary Switching Area, out of these 88 exchanges are proposed for expansion during 1997-98 resulting an addition of net capacity of 58000 lines.

Construction of New Railway Terminus

4183. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any demand to construct new railway terminus at Dahanu road station in Western Railway;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced at the said terminus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities to ITDC Employees

4184. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of the India Tourism Development Corporation hotels are not entitled for treatment in CGHS dispensaries/Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is no ESI dispensary within a radius of two kilometers near the area where the

employees of the ITDC hotels particularly the Class Four employees are facing more difficulties;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the ITDC has appointed some hospitals for treatment of its employees but it does not make full reimbursement of medical bills of these employees and deduct the amount from their salaries;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government propose to provide some facilities particularly to the Class Fourth employees by simplifying the rules; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) ITDC hotels employees may take medical treatment in empanelled Government hospitals. However, they are not entitled for treatment in CGHS dispensaries which are meant for Central Government employees.

(c) and (d) As per ESI Act, employees covered under ESI scheme are to take the treatment from ESI dispensaries irrespective of distance of their residence.

(e) and (f) In addition to Government hospitals, ITDC has empanelled some other Hospitals/Nursing Homes under its medical scheme. The reimbursement to the concerned employees is made as per their entitlement stipulated in to Rules.

(g) and (h) All ITDC employees including Group IV employees are entitled for medical facilities as per the existing Rules. ITDC has no jurisdiction to make any change in ESI Scheme.

[English]

Development of Hubli and Gadag Railway Stations

4185. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any programme has been chalked out for the development of Hubli and Gadag railway stations of South Central Railway in view of insufficient facilities available at these stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount provided for the development of these railway stations;

(d) the time by which the development work of the said railway stations is likely to be commenced; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) Amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic have already been provided at Hubli and Gadag stations. However, to augment the existing facilities improvement to water supply and development works at a cost of Rs. 18.55 lakh has been taken up at Hubli and improvement work at Gadag has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 2.21 lakh. These works are expected to be completed during 1997 itself. Constant monitoring of the progress is done to ensure completion as targetted.

Tourism Projects in Assam

4186. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of tourism projects in Assam sanctioned by the Union Government in the current plan;

(b) the details of the projects completed so far; and

(c) the details of the projects under implementation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The details of tourism projects in Assam sanctioned by the Union Government in the current plan and the details of projects completed and implemented are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Prioritised Projects for 1996-97 for the State of Assam

S.No.	Name of the project/ scheme	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Purchase of Elephant for Kaziranga, Manas, Orang and Pobitora (10 nos.)	35.00
2.	Upgradation of sound and light show at Talatal Ghar at Sibsagar	50.00
3.	Upgradation cum expansion of tourist facilities at Kaziranga	19.16
4.	Luxury Tourist Cruise Vessel of two engine 4 cylinder of capacity 40 persons	
	(a) In and around Guwahati including Sualkuchi and Kuruwa	30.00
	(b) From Chandarpur to Pobitora	30.00
5.	Upgradation and expansion of Tourist facilities at Bhalukpong	19.60
	Total	183.76